

TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION  
OF HUMPBACK WHALES IN HAWAI'I\*

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During the years 1977-1980, aerial surveys of the waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands were flown at approximately two-week intervals from mid-January to mid-April. Data from these flights were used to assess the changes in relative abundance of whales and calves and their use of subregions within the habitat. Peak abundance in each year was constrained to a relatively short period near the end of February, though there is a trend for peaks to occur at different times in different years. Evidence also indicates temporal differences in the whale influx at the various Islands. This suggests the possibility of discrete subpopulations on the outlying islands of Kaua'i and Hawai'i in addition to the principal group in the Maui-Lāna'i area. Alternatively, it may reflect a northwesterly seasonal shift in the population "center" from Hawai'i to O'ahu.